

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 00635 080950Z

21

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /053 W

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FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5446

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0635

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN PEKING

REF: PEKING 0623, 0622

1. SITUATION AS OF 1600 HOURS APRIL 8. PEKING'S CIVILIAN POPULATION HAS BEEN RAPIDLY MOBILIZED TO CELEBRATE THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE POLITBURO'S RESOLUTIONS NAMING HUA KUO-FENG AS PREMIER AND PARTY VICE-CHAIRMAN, AND DIVESTING TENG HSIAO-PING OF ALL POSTS. WITHIN AN HOUR OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT AT 2000 HOURS APRIL 7 OF THE POLITBURO'S DECISIONS ON LEADERSHIP CHANGES, A FEW LORRIES BEGAN CRUISING PEKING' S STREETS LOADED WITH CELEBRANTS BANGING AWAY ON DRUMS, GONGS AND CYMBALS. BY SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT THE FIRST COLUMNS OF MARCHERS WERE ON THE MOVE IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE CITY, AND A STEADY STREAM OF TRUCKS WAS CRUISING UP AND DOWN CHANGAN AVENUE. BY THE AFTERNOON OF APRIL 8 THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WHO HAD MARCHED TO TIEN AN MEN, MADE A U-TURN AND MARCHED BACK ALONG THEIR ORIGINAL ROUTE WAS PROBABLY WELL OVER TWO MILLION; THE INTENTION APPEARS TO BE T HAVE PRACTICALLY EVERY CIVILIAN ORGANIZATION IN PEKING, EVEN NEIGHBORHOOD GROUPS, SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE LEADERSHIP CHANGES. THE SCENE IS COLORFUL, WITH MANY BANNERS AND FLAGS ON THE LORRIES AND CARRIED BY THE PARADERS, AND NOISY

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PAGE 02 PEKING 00635 080950Z

WITH DRUMS, CYMBOLS AND GONGS IN CONSTANT USE. THERE IS A

HOLIDAY MOOD; PEOPLE ARE FRIENDLY TO FOREIGNERS, BUT ADULT PARTICIPANTS FOR THE MOST PART SEEM TO BE JUST GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS.

2. POSTERS AND SLOGANS DENOUNCING TENG HSIAO-PING BY NAME HAVE APPEARED OVERNIGHT ON PEKING STREETS. ONE LARGE SLOGAN PASTED UP JUST OPPOSITE THE INTERNATIONAL CLUB SAYS: "DECISIVELY CRITICIZE TENG HSIAO-PING'S REVISIONIST LINE." MANY OF THE UNITS MARCHING TO THE SQUARE CARRIED PORTRAITS OF CHAIRMAN MAO AND BANNERS WITH THE WORDING "RESOLUTELY PROTECT (OR SUPPORT) THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE CCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE." THE SAME SLOGAN WAS ALSO PASTED ON THE SIDES OF LORRIES INVOLVED IN THE CELEBRATION. THE CONTRAST WITH LAST WEEK'S SILENT PROCESSIONS CARRYING WREATHS FOR CHOU EN-LAI --MANY WITH CHOU'S PICTURE--IS STRIKING,, AND WE THINK NOT ACCIDENTAL.

3. LIGHTING PATTERNS INSIDE THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE AS LATE AS 0230 APRIL 8 MAY HAVE BEEN A SIGN OF CONTINUING LEADERSHIP MEETINGS.

4. SEVERAL SCHEDULED DOMESTIC FLIGHTS FROM PEKING AIRPORT, INCLUDING ONE TO CANTON, WERE HELD UP UNTIL AROUND NOON. THE REASON GIVEN IN THE CASE OF THE CANTON FLIGHT: "WEATHER." THOMAS

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